About 1,996 acres of land has been acquired at Bhatinda for the refinery. Major activities completed within the refinery premises include (i) site grading of 1,600 acres of refinery land (ii) area lighting system (iii) construction and drinking water system (iv) 31 kms. of drain. Raw water channel of 12 kms. to the refinery site has also been completed. Road network (internal and external) has been completed. Right of user through the entire length of crude oil pipeline of more than 1,000 kms. has been obtained. the Company has acquired 31 acres of land at Mundra, Gujarat for crude oil terminal, and has also secured a ti-up with port authorities.

The project is likely to be completed in the financial year 2010-2011.

Petroleum Economic Zone

1580. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a proposal has been mooted to set-up an exclusive Petroleum Economic Zone for service providers in the oil and gas industry, with a view to pooling in knowledge from diverse public, private and foreign institutions about India's geology and using it to attain energy security; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In view of India's export earnings of over Rs. 28,000 crore from petroleum products in 2004-05, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) was asked to prepare a detailed feasibility study on making India as an investment destination for refineries, in particular export-oriented refineries, aimed at promoting India as the refining hub of South Asia/South-East Asia. The study was carried out by IOCL alongwith M/s. Shell Global Solutions International B.V. IOCL has submitted the feasibility report.

As per the study, an economically feasible Super Site Concept has been developed based on a Paradip type as nucleus. The concept derives competitive strength from world-class scale, integration, specialisation and long term national and site planning.

In view of the delicensing of the refinery sector since June, 1998, it is now for the Boards of Oil Public Sector Undertakings to take a decision on setting up of more Petroleum infrastructure, based on economic considerations.